

women"—women from conquered countries who were forced into sexual slavery to serve Japanese troops—has been sharply criticized by Amnesty International, which has called on the Japanese government to accept full responsibility.

Of the estimated 80,000 to 200,000 comfort women, 80 to 90 percent were from Korea. Girls as young as 11 were forced to serve between five and 40 soldiers a day, and almost 100 soldiers daily on weekends. Those who resisted were beaten, burned or wounded with the soldiers' swords. During the Japanese retreat, many were left to starve or were executed to eliminate any trace of the atrocities.

For many years after the Second World War, Japan insisted that the comfort stations had been private brothels. Only in 1993 did Japan admit any military responsibility. Although many of the comfort women have died, and many are now quite old, Japan must make restitution. The principle is not so much war as the human dignity of women, and as long as Japan does nothing, it implies that it does not care.

The first South Korean woman to tell her story was Bae Bong Ki in 1980. Kim Hak Soon, who died in 1997, related in 1991 how Japanese soldiers had abducted her when she was 17 and forced to carry ammunition by day and serve as a prostitute by night. Her testimony sparked several others. Evidence of comfort stations has already been found in Korea, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, New Guinea and Okinawa.

Chung Seo Woon, interviewed by Dai Sil Kim-Gibson in the book *Making More Waves*, was the only child of a wealthy landowner in South Korea. Her father was sent to prison and badly tortured. When she was 16, she was allowed to visit him. She was told that if she agreed to work in Japan for 2 years, her father would be released. Despite strong objections from her mother, she agreed.

Chung Seo Woon was placed on a ship with many other girls and women. Her group went from Japan to Indonesia, where they were sterilized and sent to Semarang, a coastal town, where they were forced to serve dozens of soldiers and officers daily. In the process, she was forced to become an opium addict. When Chung Seo Woon attempted to commit suicide by swallowing malaria pills, she was revived, and, she remarks, "It was then that I made up my mind to survive and tell my story, what Japan did to us." When war ended and she returned home, she found her house deserted. Her father had died in prison, and her mother, humiliated by a rape attempt by Japanese soldiers, had committed suicide.

Chung Seo Woon kicked her opium addiction after 8 hard months of struggle and worked hard to regain her dignity. She was never able to attain a normal sex life, but found companionship and care from a physician who had had a nervous breakdown after serving in the Japanese army.

In November 1994, an international commission of jurists stated that "it is indisputable that these women were forced, deceived, coerced and abducted to provide sexual services to the Japanese military" and that Japan "violated customary norms of international law concerning war crimes, crimes against humanity, slavery and the trafficking in women and children. . . Japan should take full responsibility now, and make suitable restitution to the victims and their families."

Still forthcoming is a formal, clear and unambiguous apology to the victims of sexual abuse by Japanese soldiers, adequate monetary compensation, and punishment of those involved.

In 1995, the Japanese government introduced the Asian Women's Fund as a response

to international criticism. But the fund is widely perceived by survivors as a way for the Japanese government not to fulfill its legal responsibilities. As Purna Sen, director of Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific Program, has stated: "The Japanese government must finally right the wrongs of over 60 years by providing full reparations to the survivors of this horrific system of sexual slavery."

The money is more than money; it carries with it an important symbolism. During her testimony at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, Chung Seo Woon declared, "I might be poor, but not that poor. I demand the compensation that is rightly due to me, even if I would burn the money after it is in my hand. It is not a matter of money but of principle. The Japanese have defiled my body but not my spirit. My spirit is strong, rich and proud."

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PRESIDENT SASSOU-NGUESSO'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BUSH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on June 6 of this year, the President of the Republic of Congo, Mr. Denis Sassou-Nguesso, met at the White House with President Bush.

Not a mere photo opportunity, this meeting was substantive and included discussions of the situation in Darfur (Sudan), terrorism in Somalia and other parts of Africa, combating HIV/AIDS, and debt relief.

These discussions were important because, in addition to being leader of his own country, President Sassou-Nguesso serves as chairman of the African Union. Congo is also currently a member of the United Nations Security Council.

The two presidents exchanged views on issues of importance to the entire African continent, in particular the crisis of Darfur (Sudan), the electoral process in Congo's neighbor, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the situation in the Ivory Coast.

President Bush welcomed President Sassou-Nguesso's assertion that Africa should take the lead in the search for solutions to Africa's problems. In regard to the crisis of Darfur, the two heads of state agreed on the sending of U.N. forces to replace those of the African Union. There is a delegation of the U.N. Security Council currently carrying out a mission in the Central African Republic, and they agreed that this mission should remain in place to supervise operations in Darfur, the DRC, and Chad. President Sassou-Nguesso thanked President Bush for the U.S. leadership in the fight against the HIV pandemic in Africa.

They also discussed ecological management of the Congo Basin and the Gulf of Guinea as well as bilateral co-operation between the Republic of Congo and the United States. Congo is one of the countries eligible to participate in trade and investment opportunities under the terms of the African Growth and Opportunity Act of 2000.

After the meeting, President Bush stated: "We had a very constructive discussion about a variety of issues. We talked about our common commitment to help end the genocide in

Darfur. I appreciate the President's leadership in helping negotiate a peace agreement, and I appreciate his leadership in working with the United Nations so we can get the AU forces blue-helmeted as quickly as possible.

"And one of my interests, of course, is to join with African nations in combating HIV/AIDS, and I want to congratulate the President for the low infection rate in Congo."

For his part, President Sassou-Nguesso said: "President Bush is absolutely right, we discussed a lot of issues that we're all interested in: peace, security, and not just in Africa, but beyond Africa, in the world. We talked about terrorism, we talked about the Iranian nuclear issue, we talked about the dialogue that's about to open up, I hope, and that will bring good results to that problem."

"And on behalf of all of Africa, I thank President Bush for his commitment in fighting AIDS, the commitment of the United States in the fight against HIV/AIDS. As you know, we had a special meeting on AIDS at the United Nations General Assembly, and as you know also, Africa is the continent that suffers the most from this scourge."

"And we also talked about African development issues. We talked about the situation in the Gulf of Guinea, and the Congo Basin, the NEPAD, Project for African Development in Africa. And I was happy to see President Bush give his entire support to the development of Africa."

Mr. Speaker, the emergence of the Republic of Congo as a leader in African diplomacy and economic issues is worth noting. Only a few years ago, this small country was suffering from the aftermath of protracted civil conflict. President Sassou-Nguesso has diligently embarked on a program of political reform, social reconciliation, and economic modernization that can serve as a model for other parts of Africa.

I hope that the talks at the White House result in concrete measures for addressing the many issues President Bush and President Sassou-Nguesso discussed.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, the Fiscal Year 2007 Science, State, Justice and Commerce Appropriations bill would fund the JAG-Byrne program at \$367 million, which leaves a gap beyond what many States and local law enforcement agencies can fill without cutting multi-jurisdictional task forces which are critical in fighting the war against drugs.

At a time when meth and other drug crime enforcement has already stretched funding resources thin, this funding reduction will certainly have a negative impact. Most of Iowa's meth is in the purer form of "Ice." It is coming into my State from a foreign nation, Mexico. Our cocaine seizures are almost all of Mexican origin.

Recent marijuana seizures in Iowa are of Mexican origin. States, like Iowa, can use Federal assistance in dealing with this now